

Robert Lincoln Werntz, *USNA Class of 1884*

Founder of Naval Academy Preparatory School

Robert Lincoln Werntz was one of the 46 graduates of the US Naval Academy, Class of 1884. He was founder, and for many years (to include from 1910 to 1920), he was principal of a Preparatory School in Annapolis that processed over 5000 candidates for the Academy.

On Wednesday, 4 June 1884, the *Evening Star* of Washington, D.C. ran an article on page 5, with headline, **NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATES**; and with sub-head: **CADETS COMPOSING THE FIRST CLASS, AND THEIR RELATIVE STANDING**. The article listed the 46 graduates

numbered sequentially, with

27. Robert Lincoln Werntz, Pa.

The article concluded by stating that "Superintendent Ramsay will deliver the diplomas to the class next Friday, as neither President Arthur nor Secretary Chandler will be there."

At that time, the 'naval cadets' required a six-year course, the last two aboard a training vessel. In Aug 1884, cadet Robert Werntz was assigned for training aboard the *Saratoga* [NY Tribune, Aug 6, 1884]

In 1889, Werntz became a charter member of the Maryland branch of the Sons of the Revolution. See Monday, 22 Apr 1889, the *Sun* of Baltimore, MD ran an article under Supplement 2, with headline, **Annapolis Trades Display**.

On Thursday, 9 Jan 1890, the *New York Herald* of New York City ran an article on page 5, with headline, **NAVAL NOTES**; and included the note: "Assistant Engineer Robert Werntz has resigned his commission in the Navy, to take effect June 30, 1890."

On Friday, 28 July 1905, the *Evening Star* of Washington, D.C. ran an article on page 14, with headline, **CHAIRMAN WERNTZ RESIGNED**. The article declared that Mr. Werntz had resigned his position as republican member of the board of supervisors of election for Anne Arundel county, resigned at the request of Gov. Edwin Warfield. This request came three days after charges were preferred against Werntz by James Murdock, chairman of the republican central committee, in which it was alleged that the republican member of the board [Werntz] was a candidate for register for wills in Anne Arundel county. This short run for office is described elsewhere in the Baltimore papers [see 5 Nov 1907: **PROF. WERNTZ AT ODDS WITH ...**]

On Tuesday, 8 Nov 1931, the *Evening Star* of Washington, D.C. ran an article on page 16, with headline, **ANNAPOLIS EDUCATOR, PROF. WERNTZ, DIES**,

with sub-head: **Founder of Naval Academy Preparatory School, 68, Had Been Ill Three Months**

The article stated in part, "Prof. Robert L. Werntz, 63, founder and proprietor of the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Annapolis, died this afternoon at his home here after a three months' illness. His death was due to a complication of issues.

"Prof. Werntz was a graduate of the Naval Academy, Class of 1884, practically all of whose members resigned from the service upon graduation. Since his resignation he has conducted the preparatory school, over 5000 of his pupils having successfully entered the Naval Academy.

"He is the lone survivor of his family, his wife and three brothers having died some time ago. The funeral will be held out of the house of his niece, Mrs. Maurice Ogle, on Prince George Street, on Tuesday afternoon."

The Preparatory School continued to operate following the death of its founder. On Sunday, 1 Sept 1935, the *Boston Herald* of Boston, Mass. ran an advertisement on page 20, with headline, **U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**; and with sub-head: **Founded in 1887 by Robert L. Werntz, Graduate U.S.N.A.**, listing 4,362 pupils passing examinations, "more than all other preparatory schools combined."

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